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ABSTRACT

This book discusses the cluelessness (bafflement, usually accompanied by shame and resentment) felt by students, the general public, and even many academics in the face of the impenetrability of the academic world. The book examines some ways in which schools and colleges reinforce this cluelessness and perpetuate the misconception that the life of the mind is a secret society for which only an elite few qualify. Part 1, "Confusing the Issue," contains: (1) "The University Is Popular Culture, But It Doesn't Know It Yet"; (2) "The Problem Problem and Other Oddities of Academic Discourse"; and (3) "The Mixed-Message Curriculum." Part 2, "Intellectualism and Its Discontents," contains: (4) "Two Cheers for the Argument Culture": and (5) "Paralysis by Accident." Part 3, "Communicative Disorders," contains: (6) "Unlearning To Write"; (7) "Scholars and Sound Bites"; (8) "Why Johnny Can't Argue"; (9) "Outing Criticism"; and (10) "The Application Guessing Game" (with Andrew Hoberek). Part 4, "Teaching the Club," contains: (11) "Hidden Intellectualism"; (12) "A Word for Words and a Vote for Quotes"; (13) "Wrestling with the Devil"; and (14) ""Deborah Meier's Progressive Traditionalism." An epilogue contains "How To Write an Argument-What Students and Teachers Really Need To Know." (Contains 250 endnotes.) (SLD)

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